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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

On this day, we ask Your blessing on the men and women, citizens all, whose votes have populated this people's House. Each Member of this House has been given the sacred duty of representing them.

O Lord, we pray that those with whom our Representatives might meet during this coming long weekend in their home districts be blessed with peace and an assurance that they have been listened to.

We ask Your blessing now on the Members of this House whose responsibility lies also beyond the local interests of constituents while honoring them. Give each Member the wisdom to represent both local and national interests, a responsibility calling for the wisdom of Solomon. Grant them, if You will, a double portion of such wisdom.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GABBARD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

DUTY, HONOR, SERVICE TO GOD, FAMILY, AND COUNTRY

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, much has been said about the tumultuous times in which we live, and it is true, we do face enormous challenges. But I would like to remind the American people of the things that will get us through these times.

My parents were part of the Greatest Generation. My father was a pilot in World War II, and I am honored to wear his Air Force wings. My mother was a mother of 10 amazing children, many of which are with me today. They are the best friends that I have ever had.

Our parents taught us something that each of us has embroidered and now hangs on our individual family walls, and it is this: Our family's motto is duty, honor, service to God, family, and country.

We are, as Abraham Lincoln said: "The last best hope of Earth." That was true when he said it. It is still true today.

We created the miracle of the Constitution; we survived the catastrophe of the Civil War; we defeated communism, totalitarianism, fascism; we have the strength to get through the challenges that we face today. But it will only be true if we are true to that

principle: Duty, honor, service to God, family, and country.

TAKE BACK HEALTHCARE FROM PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, Big Pharma has played by its own rules, benefiting from skyrocketing drug prices on the backs of our most vulnerable populations.

Back in 2003, legislation was passed establishing Medicare part D to make prescription drugs more affordable for people, but Big Pharma lobbyists influenced those policies and made it so there is a provision included that would ban the Secretary of Health and Human Services from negotiating lower prices directly with pharmaceutical companies, something that the VA can already do today.

Over 42 million Americans who are enrolled in Medicare part D continue to face rising costs on brand name drugs, fewer generic drugs, and higher premiums, making it difficult, if not impossible, for many to fill their prescriptions.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act to take back our healthcare from pharmaceutical companies and allow the Secretary of HHS to negotiate drug prices directly with manufacturers to secure affordable, lifesaving medication for millions of Americans.

E-VERIFY SAVES AMERICAN JOBS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House Judiciary Committee approved the Legal Workforce

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Act, a bill I introduced that saves jobs for citizens and legal workers. It requires U.S. employers to use the E-Verify system to check the work eligibility of all future hires.

A September 2017 Washington Post-ABC News poll shows that 82 percent of voters favor requiring business owners to check the immigration status of prospective employees.

E-Verify is the most popular immigration reform that reduces illegal immigration. E-Verify is a free and quick system that already is used voluntarily by employers to cover one-third of the workforce.

The Legal Workforce Act has the backing of both national business organizations and immigration enforcement groups. This bill deserves the enthusiastic support of all Members of Congress who want to put the interest of American workers first.

OPPOSING THE BILLIONAIRES-FIRST TAX PLAN

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today, House Republicans will move one step closer to giving a budget-busting \$2 trillion tax cut to the superwealthy on the backs of hardworking Americans, one step closer to increasing taxes on vulnerable Americans, one step closer to gutting Medicaid by \$1 trillion and slashing Medicare by \$500 billion, one step closer to decimating programs that help veterans, seniors, students, and families.

Many families in my home district in Ohio are struggling—struggling because they haven't had a pay increase in over a decade. That is why, instead of pushing Donald Trump's "Billionaire's First Tax Cut Plan," we need to ensure that all Americans have a chance to achieve an American Dream by expanding the earned income tax credit, child care tax credit, and low housing income tax credit, not capping retirement contributions, and eliminating tax loopholes that allow U.S. companies to profit from shipping jobs overseas.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we provide a level playing field for all families to truly help them have a better life.

C.J. RUDOLPH INSPIRES WITH GRIT AND PERSEVERANCE

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of C.J. Rudolph of Sellersville, Pennsylvania. C.J. was born in December 2015, at Grand View hospital. Before he was born, he tested positive for the Trisomy-21 gene, meaning that he was going to be born with Down syndrome. But his parents, Chris and Donna, had faith he would be a fighter.

From day one, C.J. battled just to stay alive. He had two heart defects and was immediately put in the neonatal ICU. As the condition became more critical, he was transferred to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and ultimately ended up at the University of Pennsylvania hospital.

After 5 weeks at the University of Pennsylvania hospital, at the age of 58 days, C.J. underwent heart surgery performed by a miracle worker named Dr. Spray. Four days later, C.J. was finally able to come home with his parents.

Mr. Speaker, at almost 2 years old, C.J. has overcome more obstacles than many of us will face in a lifetime. Today, C.J. serves as the inspiration of the Sellersville Fire Department and continues to inspire all those he encounters with his grit and perseverance.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 580, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027, with the Senate amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia). The Clerk will designate the Senate amendment.

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018.

(a) *DECLARATION.*—Congress declares that this resolution is the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018 and that this resolution sets forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this concurrent resolution is as follows:

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Subtitle A—Budgetary Levels in Both Houses

Sec. 1101. Recommended levels and amounts.

Sec. 1102. Major functional categories.

Subtitle B—Levels and Amounts in the Senate

Sec. 1201. Social Security in the Senate.

Sec. 1202. Postal Service discretionary administrative expenses in the Senate.

TITLE II—RECONCILIATION

Sec. 2001. Reconciliation in the Senate.

Sec. 2002. Reconciliation in the House of Representatives.

TITLE III—RESERVE FUNDS

Sec. 3001. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect flexible and affordable health care for all.

Sec. 3002. Revenue-neutral reserve fund to reform the American tax system.

Sec. 3003. Reserve fund for reconciliation legislation.

Sec. 3004. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for extending the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Sec. 3005. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to strengthen American families.

Sec. 3006. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote innovative educational and nutritional models and systems for American students.

Sec. 3007. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve the American banking system.

Sec. 3008. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote American agriculture, energy, transportation, and infrastructure improvements.

Sec. 3009. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to restore American military power.

Sec. 3010. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for veterans and service members.

Sec. 3011. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for public lands and the environment.

Sec. 3012. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to secure the American border.

Sec. 3013. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote economic growth, the private sector, and to enhance job creation.

Sec. 3014. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation modifying statutory budgetary controls.

Sec. 3015. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent the taxpayer bailout of pension plans.

Sec. 3016. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to implementing work requirements in all means-tested Federal welfare programs.

Sec. 3017. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect Medicare and repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

Sec. 3018. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to affordable child and dependent care.

Sec. 3019. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to worker training programs.

Sec. 3020. Reserve fund for legislation to provide disaster funds for relief and recovery efforts to areas devastated by hurricanes and flooding in 2017.

Sec. 3021. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting Medicare and Medicaid.

Sec. 3022. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the provision of tax relief for families with children.

Sec. 3023. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the provision of tax relief for small businesses.

Sec. 3024. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to tax relief for hard-working middle-class Americans.

Sec. 3025. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to making the American tax system simpler and fairer for all Americans.

Sec. 3026. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to tax cuts for working American families.

Sec. 3027. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the provision of incentives for businesses to invest in America and create jobs in America.

Sec. 3028. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to eliminating tax breaks for companies that ship jobs to foreign countries.

Sec. 3029. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing full, permanent, and mandatory funding for the payment in lieu of taxes program.

Sec. 3030. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to tax reform which maintains the progressivity of the tax system.

Sec. 3031. Deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to significantly improving the budget process.